



# Washington State Department of Agriculture News Release

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## **WSDA Director Dan Newhouse statement on U.S.-Mexico trucking dispute**

**OLYMPIA** – WSDA Director Dan Newhouse today (Jan. 6) issued the following statement on the U.S. proposal to resolve the Mexican trucking dispute:

“I’m encouraged about the [U.S. proposal](#) that could lead to an end to the harmful tariffs against Washington’s apple, pear, potato and other food exports to Mexico. While we must be assured of the safety of all trucks on our highways, our state’s growers have been caught up in a dispute not of their own making.

“Two harvests have come and gone since these punitive tariffs targeted our state’s 39,000 farming families. While these Mexican import duties of up to 25 percent have been in effect, Washington agricultural exports to Mexico have declined by at least \$40 million. Now that Mexico is targeting our apple growers, the decline in exports of this year’s apple crop could be as high as \$50 million.

“Gov. Chris Gregoire and I have been working closely with our federal partners to find a path forward on this issue. I’ve discussed this matter with Transportation Secretary LaHood, USDA Secretary Vilsack, and with leaders in Congress. We’ve left no rock unturned in an effort to knock down this barrier to our exports.

“I hope that the U.S. proposal will jumpstart the discussion that has languished for far too long, and applaud the work of our congressional delegation for their efforts. The sooner we can find a resolution to this issue, the sooner our growers can begin to rebuild their export relationships with their customers south of the border.”

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